

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

Claims 2, 4, 8, and 10 have been canceled herein.

Independent claims 1 and 7 are amended herein to more clearly define the subject matter thereof.

Claims 5-6 and 11-12 are found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form and to overcome any rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 5 and 11 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Claims 2, 4 and 10 are cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett in view of Kojima et al. (Kojima).

It is respectfully submitted that neither Barrett nor Kojima disclose a table of a connecting status showing which existing terminal equipment or new terminal equipment is used in each point to be managed and correspondence between hard addresses of the existing terminal equipment and new terminal equipment.

Kojima describes a management table which is referring to program addresses and not addresses of equipment. The management table of Kojima stores management information

about the state of control program execution as well as the addresses of the areas holding the control information i.e. addresses of program storage areas. (col. 1, lines 20-35).

Applicant's claims 1 and 7 recite the table for a connecting status showing which existing terminal equipment or new terminal equipment is used in each point to be managed and correspondence between hard addresses of the existing terminal equipment and the new terminal equipment, which are corresponding to the points to be managed.

It is respectfully submitted the features of applicant's table are not described in the cited references either singly or in combination.

Further applicant's claims 1 and 7 recite: hard address corresponding to the point to be managed is switched according to the connecting status of the existing terminal equipment or new terminal equipment and the correspondence between hard addresses of the existing terminal equipment and the new terminal equipment obtained according to the table of the center device, and a connection from the existing terminal equipment or the new terminal equipment to the center device is controlled.

Kojima describes that depending on the execution state of the program, the load execution unit loads the new control information into the area specified by the addresses held in the program ID management table 3a (col. 4, lines 30-40). Kojima does not describe the switching between hard addresses of the existing terminal equipment and the new terminal equipment according to the connection status.

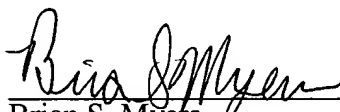
Further Kojima describes the execution state of the program and does not suggest a connection status of terminal equipment.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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